

Appl. No. 10/720,557
Docket No. 9130M
Amdt. dated December 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed on September 19, 2007
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a first region comprising a plurality of apertures and a second region comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations.
2. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.
3. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said out-of-plane deformations are soft, resilient, rib-like elements.
4. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 3, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.
5. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said first region is disposed centrally to said sanitary napkin along said longitudinal

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axis and said second region is disposed adjacent at least one of said longitudinally-oriented side edges and adjacent said first region of said sanitary napkin.

6. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, further comprising a deep-embossed channel.
7. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 6, wherein said deep-embossed channel has a depth of at least 50% of said thickness of said sanitary napkin.
8. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a first region comprising a plurality of apertures and a second region comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations;

said sanitary napkin comprising at least one deep-embossed channel defining an interior portion of said sanitary napkin.
9. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.

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10. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said out-of-plane deformations are soft, resilient, rib-like elements.
11. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 10, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.
12. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said interior portion is completely bounded by said deep-embossed channel, and said first region is disposed substantially within said interior portion.
13. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations, said out-of-plane deformations being ~~a plurality of~~ soft, resilient, rib-like elements; and

said sanitary napkin comprising at least one deep-embossed channel defining an interior portion of said sanitary napkin.
14. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet.

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15. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said interior portion is completely bounded by said deep-embossed channel~~7~~₂.
16. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.
17. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein the individual rib-like elements have a length, measured along their longitudinal orientation, of between 1% and 50% of the length of the sanitary napkin.
- 18.-20. (Canceled)
21. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said second region consists essentially of said plurality of out-of-plane deformations.
22. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said first region consists essentially of said plurality of apertures.
23. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said second region consists essentially of said plurality of out-of-plane deformations and said first region consists essentially of said plurality of apertures.
24. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said facing layer comprises a fibrous nonwoven web, and wherein said plurality of apertures are formed in said fibrous nonwoven web.

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25. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 2, wherein said topsheet and said secondary topsheet are comprised of fibrous nonwoven webs.
26. ° (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 25, wherein said topsheet and said secondary topsheet form a composite web material wherein said topsheet and said secondary topsheet are intermeshed.
27. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said first region is disposed centrally to said sanitary napkin along said longitudinal axis and said second region is disposed adjacent at least one of said longitudinally-oriented side edges and adjacent said first region of said sanitary napkin.
28. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said plurality of out-of-plane deformations are disposed along at least one of said longitudinally-oriented side edges of said sanitary napkin.
29. (New) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said deep-embossed channel has a depth of at least 50% of said thickness of said sanitary napkin.